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Johastrom

Plainville

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Dec. 18, 1959

PLAINVILLE WATER CO. PROBLEM

You have asked that I give you a brief resume of the problem existing between Marlin Rockwell Corp. and the Plainville Water Co. who are suppliers of water to the residents of the Town of Plainville and industrial corporations operating within Plainville town limits.

The Plainville Water Co. has two gravel packed wells on property adjacent to Marlin Rockwell property. These wells plus an open reservoir are the sole sources of water for the Town of Plainville.

On March 10, 1958 Dr. Cook, then Health Officer of the Town of Plainville and Mr. Miner, President of the water company informed us that the smaller of the two water company wells was contaminated and they presumed the contamination was coming from the pond in which we dump our plant waste. We immediately met with representatives of the water company, Dr. Cook, the State Water Resources Commission representative and State Health Dept. to determine the nature of the contaminant and a course of action to be taken to clear up the problem.

Subsequent tests of materials used within the plant for washing purposes pinpointed one compound as the probable source of difficulty. Steps were immediately taken to replace this material with a non-offending compound. This was done on the second of April 1958. In the meantime we had the services of the Betz Laboratories at our disposal and a recommended treatment for the second and smaller of the two waste disposal ponds on our property was prepared and steps taken to treat this pond and dispose of the material into the Quinipiac River. This smaller pond has been filled and treated four times in the 12 months which followed the original discovery of the problem. This was done to reduce the level in the original or larger pond into which we dump plant wastes. It is felt that the original pond was not contributing to the problem since the material dumped into this pond was considered as such to have sealed off the underlying sand area to the extent that it would not absorb any further liquids.

In the past 8 months there has been no unfavorable comment from the water company and since they have been using the larger of the two wells continuously with no difficulty, it has been assumed that the problem was clearing up. The water company had recently petitioned Public Utilities for a rate increase and in presenting their case, the Marlin Rockwell contamination problem came to the attention of the Utilities Commission. The enclosed newspaper clipping covers the Utilities Commission comments to the water company.

We had a meeting today with the water company, State Water Commission and a representative of the Fidelity & Casualty Insurance Co. who have handled our general liability insurance coverage since July 1st, 1955. Prior to this date I understand American Mutual Liability Insurance Co. handled our general coverage.

We had determined that we started using offending material early in Feb. 1954 and continued using this material until it was stopped the first part of April 1958.

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The water company is insisting that the problem must be cleared up before they get into the heavy demand of the summer months as they are in no position to purchase water from neighboring towns.

Further investigations will be made to determine what further steps may be taken to improve the situation.

JEA:JB

LAO
BIEB
CRR
MS

J. S. Appleyard

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